

The Times - Dispatch

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1910.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE JUDGES.

Some new sensation may be expected from Washington nearly every day until the present Congress finishes its labors. Yesterday the story was told about the President had invited Senator La Follette to a conference with him about the appointment of Justices of the Supreme Court and how the Wisconsin Senator sidestepped the invitation, and instead of going to the White House in response to the President's request, wrote a letter informing the President that "I shall support your Administration whenever I can do so consistently, and I shall oppose your recommendations only when I find it necessary so to do in accordance with my convictions of public duty."

This was the way the Senator's letter closed and it was altogether within his rights and to his credit; had he not in the first part of his letter offered the suggestion that "in view of present conditions only such men should be selected as will be certain to construe the Constitution and the law with due regard to the interests of the people, eliminating from consideration those whose legislative or judicial records show them biased toward special interests or whose legal connection would tend to prejudice their minds in favor of such interests." This is only another way of saying that in the opinion of Senator La Follette the President should appoint Judges who are biased against the special interests and who would construe the Constitution and the law without regard to the rights of the special interests, or such appears to be a fair construction of the Senator's remarkable letter.

We do not think that this is the sort of Judges the people want and we are sure that it is not the sort of Judges the President would care to appoint, having to view the just and impartial administration of the laws. The people do not want the Court to be packed for what are indefinitely and broadly described as "the interests of the people," lest the time come when the Court might be packed against such interests. It is just as well, therefore, that Senator La Follette did not go to the White House for a conference with the President, such being the twist of his mind as to how and against what interests the new Judges should be selected. Thousands of years before Senator La Follette was born and the State of Wisconsin established, a wise King of Israel set Judges in the land, and in giving them their commissions said unto them: "Take heed what ye do; for ye judge not for man, but for the Lord, who is with you in the judgment. Wherefore now let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take heed and do it; for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts."

THE MESSAGE AND OTHER THINGS.

As we have said, the President's message to Congress is very long. The newspapers all over the country are commenting upon this feature of it, rather than upon its merits as a State paper.

The Columbia State protests against what it calls "oppressively long messages," and it has gone into figures in this case. It estimates that it would take at least eight hours to read the President's message with care, and its proper digestion would require a great many more hours. It does not believe that more than one man in a thousand will read the message, but as there are ninety-one million people in this country, if the calculation of the Columbia paper hold good, it will be seen that the President would still have a fairly respectable number of readers—about the number, we should say, who read The Times-Dispatch every day. In the opinion of our contemporary, it is not so important to know what to do with ex-Presidents as it is to have Presidents trained to say the essential things within the time the public may give attention.

There is some merit in the opinion expressed by the State, but the State itself prints a good many long things that few people read. For example, only a few days ago it printed more than six columns of a very able lecture delivered before the students of the University of South Carolina on "Criminal Procedure in the Federal Courts," by District Attorney Cochran—an admirable paper in every respect—but in the President's message this subject was covered fairly well in a paragraph or two that would fill some thing like three or four inches of space in the ordinary newspaper column.

The Columbia paper has printed columns upon columns of campaign speeches dealing with questions of purely local, neighborhood interest, and thought it was doing excellent newspaper work in loading its pages with this drivel; yet it protests that in dealing with the various important interests of a great nation, covering the

larger part of a continent and affecting the interest of every State and community and individual in this country and their relations with the rest of the world, the President should bellow down his message so that it could be read by the "busy man" in the course of an hour or so.

The criticism of the President's message by the Columbia State is not unlike the criticism of a vast majority of the newspapers; yet the space filled by them with other matters, certainly not of greater importance, is astonishing. Picking up at random a number of esteemed contemporaries, we would note that a few days ago The Times, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, filled five and a half columns giving the fielding averages of the American and National Baseball Leagues, and the ever brilliant, though exorbitant, New York Evening World printed last Monday four columns in small type of an uncompleted story by Mary Roberts Rinehart, author of "Seven Days," etc., about "The Window at the White Gate."

We wish it were possible to bellow down all official documents, and we think that the President might very well have confined his message to much shorter space, but it cannot be denied that the newspapers, which charge him with trespassing upon the time and patience of the reading public, often waste a great deal of space themselves in printing things that are certainly of no greater importance than a presidential message.

MEAT STILL GOING UP.

The price of meat is going up. On Tuesday all grades of beef and pork in the Omaha market went up one cent the pound, the wholesale price of pork, which was 10 cents the pound last week, has gone up to 12 cents, and it is said that the retail prices all over the country will follow at once. On Tuesday the price of hogs rose from 15 to 30 cents, and "cattle have been steadily advancing for the past week."

This will not be very welcome news to the ultimate consumer, whose attention is directed to the fact that the railroads are not to blame for the increased prices of meat. There has been no advance in the charges for transportation for the last twenty years or so. Isn't it about time we were taking a fair view of the causes which have led to the present high cost of living and place the blame or the praise where it really belongs?

AGREEING NOT TO GIVE.

"I had a letter from a dear friend the other day saying that she did not intend to make any gifts this Christmas, and asking me not to send her anything. I think this is a good thing, don't you?"

Although this question was not sent to us, we do not mind saying that we sympathize entirely with the view expressed by this thoughtful woman. The giving of gifts is one of the most delightful exercises, but not simply because it is "the fashion" and is influenced by the feeling that the receiver can't help giving something in return. This is one of the reasons that the gift-giving season is always looked forward to with grave misgivings and much embarrassment. We are told by the ministers to give until it hurts; but this is understood to refer only to what we give in a religious way and for religious purposes. A safe rule in Christmas giving is not to give if it hurts. Especially do not give cigars that nobody can smoke, or should, smoke, and never give matchboxes, or other things of that sort, that are never used and that cannot be "hocked."

BALLINGER.

A majority of the committee appointed at the last session of Congress to investigate Ballinger has made its report, in which it declares that none of the charges made against him has been sustained by the evidence; that "neither any fact proved nor all the facts put together exhibit Mr. Ballinger as being anything but a competent and honorable gentleman, honestly and faithfully performing the duties of his high office with an eye single to the public interest." The minority of the committee has made an adverse report; indeed, the minority tried to make its report the report of the committee last summer by taking a very clever twist on the majority, when the majority was absent.

The charges made against Ballinger were made by Glavis, a clerk in the Interior Department, who did not think that Ballinger was conducting his department in a satisfactory way, and he was backed in his contention by Pinchot, of the Forestry Service, and he was aided and abetted by Garfield, at present unattached, and the conspiracy was encouraged by Collier's Weekly and Henry Watterson and other fomenters of trouble.

The investigation consumed a great deal of time, was used for political and partisan purposes, fed the newspapers with sensations of one sort and another, afforded sundry lawyers occupation of a purely advertising quality, and resulted in the discovery of no evidence that would convict Ballinger of any criminal conduct, before any jury of honest men in the country. When the charges were first made against Ballinger, one would have thought that he had been guilty of stealing and lying or something worse; but when the witnesses-in-chief for the prosecution were put on the stand under oath, they swore that they had never meant to charge him with dishonesty, but declared with much waiting for their eyes to heaven that they had only meant to charge him with inefficiency. Even this charge does not appear to have been sustained. The fact is that since Pinchot and Glavis were disgraced from the Government service, hype has been accomplished in the form of conservation than while they were employed. We do not mean that their dismissal had anything to do with this result, but only that the Government can get

along without them as well as, or better than, it got along with them.

The minority have made a very interesting report, but it appears to us that the bottom has dropped out of the Ballinger business, and such enterprises are to be avoided for tactical, if not for other reasons, unless the indicted person or persons have been actually caught with the goods. Sensations without any inroads are never safe for political uses. There has been some talk of impeaching Ballinger, probably because Pinchot and Glavis do not like him but in view of the testimony brought out in his case we would advise against such a course.

If we were in Ballinger's place, now that he has been cleared by the committee of investigation, we should decline to serve any longer as head of the Interior Department. He knows, of course, that Mr. Taft has suffered much embarrassment by his continued connection with the Administration, but has stuck to him through thick and thin, and should be relieved of any further responsibility for him.

A NEW USE FOR FIREMEN.

Denver Municipal Facts, the interesting weekly published by the city of Denver for the information of its citizens, tells in its latest issue of a novel system for keeping some of the streets in high-class condition and at the same time furnishing exercise for the men and horses of the Fire Department. This innovation is about to be put into effect by Mayor Speer.

At twenty of the fire stations the firemen will be formed into squads for street work. Road scrapers will be given them, together with other equipment for repairing and leveling streets. They will devote a few hours every day to the streets in a district not more than four or five blocks from the fire house, this limitation on the area of their work making it convenient for them to respond speedily to any fire alarm.

The work which the firemen will do is supplementary to that of the Street Department, which now has much more than it can do. The firemen are called upon because they need diversions and work that will keep them healthy. The horses that draw the fire apparatus must be exercised every day.

It is proposed, then, to utilize the exercise hours of the men and horses in accomplishing some results for the city. The plan has already been tried at the Montclair horse house, in Denver, and successful results have been obtained. The fire ladders at Montclair have for some weeks been putting in several hours a day keeping the streets in repair. It is hoped that much rivalry will be manifested between the different companies, so that one may attempt to outdo the other in street improvement.

Denver is the first city in the country to try out this plan. The men seem to take kindly to the idea. No street cleaning is expected or required of them. They work only for the making of better streets.

Why not try it in Richmond?

THE JUDGE AND THE COLONEL.

Will Judge Simeon E. Baldwin attend the dinner of the New Haven Chamber of Commerce next week? Is the question that is giving some concern to the excitable people of the Yankee town, and the papers are full of it. Colonel Roosevelt is to be the guest of honor on this occasion and the story is that Judge Baldwin "will not sit on the same platform" with the Colonel unless the Colonel has made a full and ample apology for his slander of the Judge during the late campaign. "One of Judge Baldwin's closest friends" is reported by the New York Times, which "prints only the news that is fit to print," or so advertises, to have said Tuesday night: "There is no reason why the Governor-elect should attend the banquet if Roosevelt is coming up here to hold a political rally or to explain the troubles of the Republicans. In fact, good taste seems to dictate that the only course for him to pursue is to remain away." It is hoped that the Judge will follow the counsel of his friend.

Colonel Isaac M. Ullman, President of the New Haven Chamber of Commerce, is making heroic efforts, however, to bring about an understanding between the two men, and it is said that letters have passed between the Colonel and the Judge; indeed, one of the stories is that the Judge has returned several of the Colonel's letters without opening them or knowing the nature of their contents. The Colonel admits, as the story goes, that letters have been written, but has declined to say anything more, as "the correspondence is not yet completed." If it be true, as alleged, that the Judge will not open and read the Colonel's letters, it would seem that the correspondence will never be completed. We are told that "the fact that such correspondence is in progress was taken to indicate that friends are striving for a mutually satisfactory understanding." All this negotiation would be escaped if the Colonel would stand up like a man and say that he misrepresented the Judge in his campaign speech at Concord, New Hampshire, or sit down and write the same thing like a man. He wouldn't do it during the campaign; but, now that the stress of politics is over, he could well afford to acknowledge that he was guilty of uttering a slander against the gentleman who is now hesitating as to whether or not he should sit at the same table with him. The case of the Colonel, in the circumstances, appears to be somewhat like that of Senator Lorimer, with the difference that the Judge is playing the role of the Colonel and the Colonel the part of the Senator.

The most exciting feature of the story in the Times is that "the latest rumor current in the affair is that Colonel Roosevelt will run into a

sheriff's arms when he reaches here (New Haven). Judge Baldwin has threatened to sue the ex-President for slander, and his friends say that the coming visit of Colonel Roosevelt will furnish the logical opportunity for serving the papers." We do not believe that Judge Baldwin would take such an advantage of the Colonel. It would be far better for him to wait until after he is inaugurated as Governor, when there will be an opportunity to catch the Colonel some time as he is passing through the State when he could be tried, convicted and locked up. Then Governor Baldwin could exercise the exquisite cruelty of granting a pardon to the Colonel and so restore him to the privileges of citizenship. To arrest him when he is going to make a speech would be barbarous.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ARIZONA?

If there is ever an Equal Suffrage hall of fame it must contain the names of a number of men who have marched beneath the banner of that noble cause and held aloft the torch of golden promise. Not the least among these will be the name of Delegate Donnelly, a valiant Irishman, who hails from Arizona.

Just before the Arizona Constitutional Convention adjourned on Saturday, Donnelly, the champion of woman's suffrage on the floor, almost succeeded in getting through an amendment which would have given a general franchise to women taxpayers. In fact, the amendment actually passed, but as soon as the convention realized the effect the hall was thrown into turmoil, and a reconsideration ordered. The amendment was killed.

It was a near-triumph, anyway, and when we think of what Donnelly may do when he gets into the Legislature, if he shall go to that body, we have no fear as to the result of his fights for the Cause.

ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL.

In his message to Congress President Taft recommends "the passage of a measure of mail subsidy or other substantial adequate to guarantee the establishment and rapid development of an American merchant marine and the restoration of the American flag to its ancient place upon the seas." He would not, however, extend such aid without requiring that each beneficiary should show by his accounts that the aid received was needed to maintain the trade and was properly used for that purpose.

This condition may have the effect of inducing Congress to act favorably upon the suggestion of the President; but we trust that the members of that body will not be deceived. The right way to rebuild the merchant marine of the United States is to rebuild it, not by Government bounties, but by removing Government restrictions. Another way to promote the merchant marine is suggested in the current number of the Atlantic Monthly, by Rear-Admiral Francis T. Bowles, formerly of the United States Navy, and now the expert head of the Fore River Shipbuilding Company in Massachusetts. Eighty years ago the value of our overseas commerce, carried in American vessels, was about 50 per cent; it is now about 8 per cent. The American tonnage engaged in the foreign trade last year was about one-half what it was in 1861. Admiral Bowles suggests a division of the tariff benefits between the American importers and the American shipbuilders and ship owners; a 10 per cent. reduction in the tariff on all imports carried in American vessels. The average rate of duty under the present tariff is 41 per cent, ad valorem, and if there should be a reduction of 5 per cent on all goods on which the ad valorem duty is 41 per cent, or less of which are non-dutiable, the importer should receive an importer's certificate, available only for the payment of dues at the Custom Houses, and equal in value to 2.05 per cent. of the value of the goods imported. This, with the remission of the head tax on immigrants and with the ability of mail steamers to make contracts for carrying the mails, would enable the shipbuilders to provide for the restoration of the merchant marine.

The plan suggested by Rear-Admiral Bowles is, of course, only a clever way of whipping the devil around the stump, but as it would not increase the tariff duties, but would divide these duties between the present beneficiaries and the would-be shipbuilding beneficiaries, it is thought that the people could be robbed without knowing it.

The Springfield Republican thinks that "there is no essential difference between paying subsidies directly from the Federal treasury and paying them from the duties which would otherwise go into the Federal treasury." It also is of the opinion that "if discriminating duties are revived in favor of our shipping, they will be revived by other nations against that shipping. In this case our ships would have their own way in our import trade carriage, but would go out empty, while foreign ships would come in empty and go out full."

The only certain way to build up the American merchant marine is to remove the burden of taxation on the materials used in the construction of ships. Nothing is to be gained for the restoration of our shipping, and certainly nothing is to be gained for the tax-burdened people of this country, by the subsidies recommended by Mr. Taft.

THE ROYAL HAM.

The Columbia State will please note that on Tuesday a box containing Smithfield hams intended for the use of His Majesty, King George the Fifth of England, was shipped from Norfolk, addressed to the Countess of Stafford at Chandos House. It should be added that for many years during the life of the late Queen Victoria each year there was shipped to her a box of these justly celebrated hams. Her son, King Edward the

Seventh, also found the Virginia delicacy to his taste and now comes the present King with an inherited appetite for the glorious meat that comes from Smithfield and Smithfield only.

In fact, there is no evidence to rebut the presumption that Captain John Smith sent a choice lot of these succulent hams to his sovereign, James the First, soon after the colonization of the Old Dominion. The immemorial age of the Smithfield ham has been established beyond doubt by this paper and we doubt not that when he ate his first slice of the delicious meat, the cold heart of James thawed out and was made warm toward Smith, who had sent to the royal table its rarest delicacy. Surely a scientific historian, such as William Henry Hoyt, the maller of the Mecklenburg Myth, could ascertain the fact that George the Third was more worried about the loss of his supply of Virginia hams than he was about the loss of his American colonies.

Under the beneficent administration of Governor Bleasie, the South Carolina hams may pick up a little bit and get better, but it is not to be hoped that the Laurens county spare rib or the Newberry pork chop will ever take its place by the Royal delicacy that has made Smithfield famous throughout the world.

A LODGE OF PROPHETS.

There are Masons and Masons—Scotch Rite Masons, Blue Lodge Masons, Royal Arch Masons, Entered Apprentices, Fellowcraftsmen, Master Masons, Knights Templar and the rest of a noble army of very good men who are associated together for generally worthy objects. Then there are societies which, though not in any sense Masonic in character, yet require as a prerequisite of membership affiliation with Masonic bodies. Such is the Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm which came down to Richmond from Washington yesterday for the purpose of organizing in this town a Lodge, or whatever they call it, of this Order. They looked very much like the Shriners, wore the same sort of Turkish caps while they were on the streets, and doubtless behaved very much like the Shriners in their more or less solemn assembly.

The sands were a little damp last night, but the "fresh meat" was in abundance and the crowd that crossed the desert got the worth of their money. One of the Prophets explained on a Laurel Street car last night that the camp was thrown into some confusion by the delay in the arrival of the trunk containing "the stunts," but it arrived in time, we are glad to say, to make the inculcation of the Prophets of Richmond "take," and, with a hundred or so additional wise men in town, a good many things should be coming our way. Life without the people who get up these organizations would lack a good deal of being as varied as it is and as delightful.

Thoughtful persons could not forget Dr. Cook Tuesday when the snow was falling here and his long marches through the Arctic wastes with only two Esquimaux in sight, far, far away from his home and the land he loves so well, sustained by an unflinching trust in his own superb courage and intent on reaching the Pole and telling the people of the world of his immortal deed.

It is plain to us that the Staunton Leader has never seen S-nator Kezell, or otherwise, it would not apply so boldly to him the assertion that "The Tall Sycamore, from Bear Run," is taking refuge "from the political storm" in accepting the treasurership of Rockingham county.

Estimating the number of words in the President's message at 30,000, it will be seen that there is really less than a quarter of a word per capita for the people of Richmond.

Dr. Lyman Abbott recollected Tuesday night, of course, the admonition of Peter, "use hospitality one to another without grudging," and interpreted the snow storm to the disposition of this town always to entertain visitors in the way they would like best.

Richmond lived up to its reputation Tuesday night of being the old original "Spotless Town."

Colonel George Harvey is spending the week or the week-end at Oak Ridge, Va., getting ready for the fireworks on the 22d of February.

We should like to direct the prayerful attention of Colonel Barton H. Grundy, of the Finance Committee, to the undue condition of Shafter Street.

The increase in the population of Guilford county, North Carolina, in the last ten years, according to the recent Census, was 21,423, a larger increase, we are told, than that made by both Mecklenburg and Wake Counties in the same State. Guilford County, it will be recollected, is the native county of the greatest living North Carolinian, the Honorable Joseph Gurney Cannon, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

The Battle of Camden.
In reply to Principal A. L. Davis, of the Crozet High School, we have to say that the account of the battle of Camden, which he sends us from Magli's History, is correct, except that Camden is in South Carolina and not in North Carolina, as stated in the excerpt sent us. It should be further noted that historians agree that the Virginians in this battle were untrained, and knew little about military formation in such circumstances.

Poe.
Will you please state when Edgar Allan Poe was born and the native place of his parents?
Poe was born January 19, 1809. His father was David Poe, of Baltimore; his mother, Elizabeth Arnold, of Charleston, S. C.

Jenny Lind.
What was the piece Jenny Lind was to sing when her voice failed her, and how long has it been?
A DAILY SUBSCRIBER.
We regret that we can find no record of this occurrence in any of the sketches of Jenny Lind which are accessible to us.

Greater New York.
Greater New York, with an area of 220 square miles, was formed on January 1, 1898, by the consolidation—approved by popular vote—of New York, Brooklyn, Long Island City, Staten Island, Westchester, Flushing, New-

The Bell Rock.
The "Inchcape Bell" of Robert Southey records a tradition of Inchcape or Bell Rock, a submerged reef about twelve miles from land, east of the Fifth of July, Scotland. The rock is 125 feet long by 200 wide and 12 feet under water, and the bell is said to have been placed on it by the Abbot of Aberbrothok, and to have been used to warn ships of the danger of the rock in the following year. One of the finest of the British lighthouses, 115 feet high, was built on the rock in 1805-11.

BODY OF KING EDWARD IS NOT YET INTERRED

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.
KING EDWARD is said to have died thirty years ago. That Sir Eldon Gorst could have permitted the enactment of a law so injurious to the interests of his countrymen, and so unjust to British investors in Egyptian enterprises, is simply inconceivable, and were it not for the fact that Great Britain is just at present in the throes of a struggle, it should doubtless hear more about it. It is hardly complimentary, either to Mr. Bryce or to the American people, that the Egyptian press should be so effusive in its demands for the recall of their envoy at Cairo, and for his transfer to some other post, preferably Washington. It is a commendation is construed as a conviction on the part of those proffering it, that the Anglo-American relations, thanks to the good offices of Sir Bryce, at Washington, and of Whitehall, in London, have been placed on so secure and strongly established a basis that not even Eldon Gorst could disturb them. Certain it is that he has made a dismal failure of matters in Egypt, where British interests, English prestige and English authority, have never been at so low an ebb, the only relief to the British mind being that Lord Kitchener happened just now to be visiting Cairo—it is said on touriste—but if rumor is to be believed, for the purpose of taking the measure of the changes since he left Egypt eleven years ago, before assuming the position, not of Gorst, but of Cromer. In that event, the present chief of the staff on the throne of Egypt may be regarded as numbered.

Among the closest and most intimate of the personal friends of King George and Queen Mary are the two veteran Canadian peers, Lord Strathcona and Lord Mount Stephen. When the King was still Prince of Wales they were constant visitors and guests at Marlborough House. It is hardly possible whether there are any two men whose word carries so much weight with the present occupants of the British throne as Lord Strathcona and Lord Mount Stephen. An illustration of the sentiments of the King and Queen toward the two is furnished by the fact that the first country house visit paid to any subject since their accession to the crown is to Lord and Lady Mount Stephen at their residence, 10 Grosvenor place, where Lord Palmerston died, where Queen Victoria's first premier, Lord Melbourne, died, and which was the place, Sir John Brooker, one of the trusty knights of Queen Elizabeth.

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Voice of the People

Communications must not contain more than 300 words. When this limit is exceeded letters will be returned. No anonymous communications will be accepted. If you desire to have your letter printed, please send the writer's address, must accompany every communication.

Audubon Societies.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—Sir:—Through the generosity of Mrs. Russell Sage, the National Association of Audubon Societies is at present able to make the following offer of assistance to the teachers in the Southern States who are interested in giving instructions to their pupils on the subject of bird study:—The association will send to the teacher Audubon papers and sets of colored pictures, together with outline drawings and the magazine, "Bird Lore," under certain conditions, and with the understanding that at least one lesson each month of the study of birds is given to the class.

I will be glad to give detailed information to those teachers who desire it.
KATHERINE H. STUART.
Alexandria.

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